

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 13222 301916Z  
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15  
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 MCE-00 EB-08 COME-00  
TRSE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-12 DODE-00 /081 W  
-----025146 312004Z /73

R 301255Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3704  
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY  
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA  
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
AMEMBASSY KABUL  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMCONSUL MADRAS  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 13222

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MASS, IN  
SUBJECT: DPSA ACQUISITION BY INDIA

1. SUMMARY: IN UPPER HOUSE DEBATE AUGUST 29, GOI  
MINISTER REITERATED POSITION THAT CABINET DECISION  
ON SELECTION OF A DEEP PENETRATION STRIKE AIRCRAFT  
(DPSA) WOULD BE MADE SOON. IN COMMENT WHICH WAS  
HEPFUL FROM US VIEWPOINT, MINISTER DENIED APPROACHING  
USG ON VIGGEN, MANTAINING THAT WAS MATTER FOR USG  
AND SWEDEN. HE IMPLIED, IN OUR JUDGEMENT MISLEADINGLY,  
THAT VIGGEN REMAINED IN RUNNING, TOGETHER WITH JAGUAR  
AND MIRAGE F-1. END SUMMARY.

2. A CALLING ATTENTION NOTICE IN RAJYA SABHA AUGUST 29  
CONCERNING "BLOCKING BY U.S." OF VIGGEN SALE DREW A  
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GOVERNMENT RESPONSE WHICH WWS UNCRITICAL OF US BUT WHICH  
CONTINUED TO SET STAGE FOR EVENTUAL ACUQISITION BY  
INDIA OF DPSA. MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENSE SHER  
SINGH NOTED GOI UNDERSTANDING THAT USG HAD NOT BEEN  
ABLE TO AGREE TO TRANSFER OF PRODUCTION LICENSE. GOI,  
HOWEVER, HAD NOT BEEN INVOLVED IN ANY EXCHANGES WITH  
USG ON VIGGEN; SUCH EXCHANGES WERE STRICTLY A USG-

SWEDEN MATTER. MINISTER SAID SWEDEN TOLD GOI THAT  
"THEY HAVE TAKEN UP THE MATTER WITH THE USG AND THEY  
WANT US TO CONTINUE CONSIDERING THEIR OFFER ALSO ALONG  
WITH OTHER OFFERS."

3. MINISTER OF STATE NOTED THAT BECAUSE OF ILLNESS OF  
KEY MINISTER AND BUSY PARLIAMENT SCHEDULE CABINET  
COMMITTEE HAD NOT YET STUDIED REPORT BY GOI TEAM  
WHICH VISITED FRANCE, UK AND SWEDEN EARIER IN YEAR.  
THE GOVERNMENT "IS EXPECTED TO CONSIDER THE MATTER  
SHORTLY."

4. IN RESPONSE TO FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS, SINGH STATED  
THAT GOI OBJECTIVE IS TO ACQUIRE LICENSE FOR PRODUCTION  
OF THE SELECTED AIRCRAFT IN INDIA. SOME SPARE PARTS  
PRODUCED IN INDIA WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR EXPORT.

5. COMMENT: FROM US POINT OF VIEW, GOI STATEMENT  
WAS HELPFUL IN THAT IT CAREFULLY AVOIDED DEPICTING  
VIGGEN MATTER AS CONTENTIOUS ISSUE IN US-INDIAN  
RELATIONS. NOR DID STATEMENT IMPLY ANY DIRECT OR  
INDIRECT CRITICISM OF US AND SHER SINGH PERSISTENTLY  
IGNORED MP'S EFFORTS TO FAULT US POSITION. GOI,  
HOWEVER, IS HAVING OBVIOUS DIFFICULTIES MAKING A  
FINAL DECISION ON THIS MAJOR ISSUE, PARTICULARLY AT  
TIME WHEN JANATA IS UNDER CONTINUING FIRE IN BOTH  
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HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT.  
GOHEEN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ACQUISITION, FIGHTER AIRCRAFT  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 30 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978NEWDE13222  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780356-0606  
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**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
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**Office:** ACTION PM  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 25 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1785188  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DPSA ACQUISITION BY INDIA  
**TAGS:** MASS, IN  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/cec9ea65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
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